

June 25, 2007

No new advisory opinions were considered during the June 21 meeting of the Citizen's Ethics Advisory Board.

Statements of Financial Interests FAQ

By now we are all well aware of the new filing requirement – the Supplemental Statement of Financial Interests – as put forth in Senate Bill No. 145, which passed in the General Assembly on June 6, 2007. A sincere thank-you to all liaisons for your great efforts in notifying the filers in your agencies. Below are answers to your frequent questions on this matter.

Why was the notification sent before the bill was signed?

The language in the legislation stated that the Office of State Ethics was to prescribe the supplemental form by June 15, 2007, and notify each affected person. In order to meet this deadline, the Governor's Office directed us to proceed as if the bill was already signed.

Do I need to file the supplement if the State is my only employer?

The short answer is yes. The language of the law is very specific that all those who were required to file the original SFI by May 1 "shall" file a supplement by August 1. There are no exceptions. Remember also, that filers need to declare the employers of their spouse and/or dependents.

June FAQ – Discussing potential job opportunities with private entities

We are frequently asked whether, before leaving state service, a state employee may discuss potential job opportunities with a private entity.

Generally, when a state employee is in "active pursuit" of a particular job opportunity, he or she must have nothing to do with the potential employer's state business, if any. "Active pursuit" of a job opportunity is the point at which the state employee is scheduled for an interview with the potential employer. If a state employee is in "active pursuit" of a job opportunity with an entity that has business before the employee at his or her state agency: (1) the employee must notify an immediate supervisor in writing of the potential conflict of interest; and (2) the supervisor must refer the matter to someone at or above his or her level. See General Statutes § 1-86 (a).

(Exceptions exist for public officials and state employees who hold certain positions—those with significant decision-making or supervisory authority—in certain state regulatory agencies. These individuals may not negotiate for, seek or accept employment with any business subject to regulation by the individual's agency. There is also an exception for some Gaming Policy Board members and Division of Special Revenue personnel with regards to Indian gaming operations. See General Statutes § 1-84b (c), (d), and (e).)

Please note that once a state employee leaves state service, the revolving-door provisions apply. See General Statutes §§ 1-84a and 1-84b (a) through (j).

Sincerely,

Meredith Trimble
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Office of State Ethics